GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:163
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009
FOREIGN SECRETARY S VISIT TO SRI LANKA
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary of India visited Sri Lanka in January 2009;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;and

(c) the details of the agreements signed during the visit?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes. Foreign Secretary of India visited Sri Lanka on 16-17 January 2009.

(b) & (c) During the visit,Foreign Secretary had meetings with the President of Sri Lanka, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary,and other senior officials and leaders of Sri Lanka.He discussed bilateral relations between the two countries,the situation in Sri Lanka and developments around the region.The Foreign Secretary was informed of recent developments in Sri Lanka.He conveyed India`s concern at the humanitarian situation in the northern part of Sri Lanka and urged the Government of Sri Lanka to move towards a peacefully negotiated political settlement.He emphasized the need to ensure the safety and security of the internally displaced civilian population.The Government of Sri Lanka indicated their intention to implement the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution. The Foreign Secretary also discussed the global economic situation.

The Foreign Secretary announced India`s intention to provide further relief assistance for affected civilians comprising of medicines and shelter. The first consignment of medicines was handed over to the Government of Sri Lanka.